GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4105
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
Aircraft for Weather Forecasts
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to purchase dedicated aircraft to carry out experiments related to weather forecasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost and benefits of the aircraft;

(d) the details of organisation responsible to maintain and provide information to the public; and

(e) whether these aircrafts are likely to be utilised for other purposes also and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes Madam. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is in the process of procuring a research aircraft as the National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR) for all airborne atmospheric research related to studies of the atmosphere.

(b) The airborne research on atmospheric aerosols and clouds has been gaining importance because of its role played by them in weather and climate systems and use of a research aircraft will lead to improved forecast of rainfall required by farmers.

(c-d) The cost of the project is 240 crore. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is entrusted with the establishment of all support system (hanger, ground support team, auxillary support system etc.) to operate NFAR for all research campaigns.

Aircraft is to be procured for advancing our understanding of atmospheric processes and to improve weather forecasts.

(e) No Madam. The aircraft will be utilized only for various airborne atmospheric research services.